



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Edward J. Tarver

Southern District of Georgia

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CHATHAM COUNTY MAN INDICTED FOR STEALING AT LEAST \$200,000 FROM SAVANNAH CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GA: KENNETH TERRELL, 46, the former pastor of New Harvest International Ministries located in Savannah, Georgia, was indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury for embezzling at least \$200,000 of the church's money for his own personal expenses and benefit. The indictment alleges that TERRELL committed these crimes over a span of over four years while serving as pastor for the local Savannah congregation, which is part of the national organization, International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Inc.

United States Attorney Edward J. Tarver said, "This defendant is alleged to have used his position as pastor to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars intended for his very own church. The indictment alleges that TERRELL systematically took money over at least a four-year period and used it to support a lavish lifestyle. The U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to investigating and prosecuting financial fraud of any nature, especially when an individual uses his position of trust to defraud others."

The indictment charges TERRELL with 7 counts of wire fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Tarver emphasized that an indictment is only an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The indictment of TERRELL arises out of a joint investigation by United States Secret Service Special Agent William Griffin and Detective Raymond Woodberry of the Savannah-Chatham County Metro Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Natalie Lee is prosecuting the case. For additional information, please contact First Assistant United States Attorney James D. Durham at (912) 201-2547.